

term 'Sva-*viṣaya*' has been used for the feudatory Dhanyaviṣṇu (of king Toramāṇa) who may have been a *viṣayapati*, the administrator-in-charge of Eraṇ.

Airikiṇa is the same as modern Eraṇ, the ancient Airikiṇa, a village on the left bank of the Bina, in Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh. From the Copper Coins of the Aśokan period found at Eraṇ, we get an earlier Pali or Prakrit form of the name which is Erakaṇa or Erakana or Erakaṇa.¹⁷⁵ It is thus clear that Erakaṇa or Erakana is the simplified form of Erikiṇa : to simplify still more the medial letter 'k' has been dropped by the process of elision.¹⁷⁶ The meaning of the word Erikiṇa is a puzzle but its connexion with erakā 'a kind of grass,¹⁷⁷ found in that area may be accepted as a hypothesis.

Place-names ending in Deśa

Deśa

It means a province, country, kingdom.¹⁷⁸ Sometimes it is used as a technical territorial term. But its exact meaning and bearing are difficult to explain due to the fact that sometimes it is described as bigger and at others smaller than other geographical divisions, such as *maṇḍala*, *rāṣṭra* and *viṣaya*.¹⁷⁹ We find only one reference each in the Brāhmaṇas¹⁸⁰ and the Vājasaneyī Saṁhitā.¹⁸¹ The passage in the Vājasaneyī Saṁhitā is significant in as much as here for the first time, *deśa* is used in the sense of a 'country'. We find a reference to the river Sarasvatī as flowing in the Madhyadeśa or 'Middle Country'. The term was much in vogue in the Upaniṣad and Sūtra period denoting therein the meaning 'land'.

1. *Mleccha-deśa* (No. 14, L. 4) :

There is a mention of the Mleccha countries in the Junāgaṛh Rock Inscription of Skandagupta (No. 14). But the record does not refer to any boundary of the Mlecchas.¹⁸²

2. *Sukuli-deśa* (No. 5, L. 4) :

It will literally mean 'a country possessing noble families in it'. It seems to have been a place near Sāñci in Madhya Pradesh.

Place-names ending in Rājya

Rājya

Rājya means a kingdom, country, realm (=rāṣṭra).¹⁸³